

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /081 W

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R 300936Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2464

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1380

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MY, ID, ASEAN

SUBJ: VISIT OF MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER

1. SUMMARY. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING VISIT TO INDONESIA MALAYSIAN PM HUSSEIN ONN STRESSED NEED TO KEEP ASEAN FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RATHER THAN DEFENSE COOPERATION, EMPHASIZED DESIRE TO CONTINUE CLOSE MALAYSIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS, AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR INDONESIAN POLICY ON TIMOR. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING COURSE OF 23-HOUR WORKING VISIT TO INDONESIA JAN 28-29 PM HUSSEIN ONN MET TWICE WITH PRESIDENT SOEHARTO FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS LASTING TOTAL OF THREE HOURS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING SECOND MEETING ON JAN 29, CONFIDENTIAL

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HUSSEIN CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS CONTINUING TRADITION OF CLOSE

PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIAN AND INDONESIAN LEADERS
ESTABLISHED BY SOEHARTO AND LATE MALAYSIAN PM TUN RAZAK.

3. IN OTHER REMARKS TO PRESS, HUSSEIN SAID ASEAN SHOULD NOT
BECOME DEFENSE ALLIANCE LIKE SEATO BECAUSE THIS WOULD WEAKEN
ORGANIZATION AND CAUSE IT TO STRAY FROM ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES,
WHICH WERE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. WHAT
ASEAN MOST NEEDED WAS AGREEMENT ON FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS. ON POSSIBLE EXPANSION TO INCLUDE
OTHER SEA STATES, HUSSEIN SAID THIS WOULD DEPEND ON FUTURE
DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN NON-ASEAN SEA COUNTRIES. HE
POINTED OUT THAT SO FAR NONE OF THESE COUNTRIES HAD INDICATED
A DESIRE TO JOINING ASEAN. HUSSEIN DECLINED COMMENT ON POSSI-
BILITY OF JAPANESE, AUSTRALIAN, OR NEW ZEALAND ATTENDANCE
AT ASEAN SUMMIT, SAYING THIS WAS MATTER TO BE DECIDED AT
FORTHCOMING MEETING OF ASEAN FOMMINS.

4. ALSO DURING PRESS CONFERENCE HUSSEIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
MALAYSIA FACED A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM WITH COMMUNIST SUBVERSION
THAN OTHER ASEAN NATIONS. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT INDONESIA
AND MALAYSIA WERE COOPERATING SUCCESSFULLY IN MILITARY
OPERATIONS AGAINST INSURGENTS ALONG KALIMANTAN BORDER.

5. ON TIMOR, HUSSEIN TOLD REPORTERS MALAYSIA CONSIDERED THIS
AN INTERNAL INDONESIAN PROBLEM. AT CLOSE OF VISIT GOI ISSUED
PRESS STATEMENT THAT HUSSEIN SUPPORTED INDONESIAN POLICY ON
TIMOR.

6. MALAYSIAN EMBASSY COMMENTS ON VISIT BEING FORWARDED
SEPTEL.

7. COMMENT: VISIT APPARENTLY WENT SMOOTHLY AND SERVED TO
GET RELATIONS BETWEEN HUSSEIN AND SOEHARTO OFF TO GOOD
START. GOI NO DOUBT PLEASED THAT HUSSEIN CHOSE TO COME TO
INDONESIA ON FIRST FOREIGN VISIT AS PM. HUSSEIN'S WARNING
AGAINST TURNING ASEAN INTO DEFENSE ALLIANCE AND HIS STRESS ON
HEWING TO ORIGINAL ASEAN OBJECTIVES, ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC
FIELD, ARE FURTHER REMINDER TO INDONESIANS THAT OTHER ASEAN
NATIONS DO NOT SHARE GOI'S ENTHUSIASM FOR PURSUING SECURITY
MATTERS IN ASEAN FRAMEWORK. THERE ARE SOME SIGNS GOI BECOMING
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MORE SENSITIVE TO DESIRES OF FELLOW ASEAN NATIONS. IN STATE-
MENT TO PRESS AT CLOSE OF JAN 27 CABINET-LEVEL MEETING TO
DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR SUMMIT, GOI INFORMATION MINISTER
SAID SOEHARTO HAD EMPHASIZED THAT PURPOSE OF SUMMIT WAS TO
FIND CONCRETE MEANS OF STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AMONG ASEAN
NATIONS, "ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC FIELD."
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